[19th October 1927

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. The question has been answered by saying that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. I do not think the question now arises."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"If the hon. Minister is not in a position to give the details just now, will he at least take the House into confidence and give the information at a later stage?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Yes, Sir. As soon as possible."

* 666 Q.—Please see page 192 infra.

Education

Training of rural school teachers in scientific agriculture.

* 667 Q.—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the teachers in the village elementary schools in the agricultural areas of the Presidency have any training in scientific agriculture;

(b) whether these teachers have any experience as cultivators;

(c) the percentage of the children of school-going age in the villages belonging to the agricultural classes;

(d) the measures, if any, taken by the Government at least in the elementary schools in the agricultural villages to give an agricultural bias to all teaching, if agriculture cannot be taught as a distinct subject; and

(e) the steps, if any, taken by the Government for rural school teachers to obtain a knowledge of scientific agriculture and practical experience in cultivation?

A.—(a) & (b) It is only in very exceptional cases that teachers in the village elementary schools have either a training in scientific agriculture or any experience as cultivators.

(c) Information is not available.

(d) & (e) It is under contemplation to introduce an alternative course in agriculture in select higher elementary and middle schools in this Presidency. A committee consisting of certain officers of the Educational and Agricultural departments has been formed to work out the details of the scheme. The proposals are awaited.

Facilities for the education of poor Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras.

* 668 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether local bodies will be permitted to give free education and also clothes and mid-day meal to the children of poor Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras and meet such expenditure from the Elementary Education Fund; and

(b) if so, whether a Government Order will be issued to that effect?

A.—(a) & (b) Local bodies have been empowered to abolish at their discretion, fees in elementary schools under their management subject however to the condition that the usual contribution

19th October 1927]

from the general revenues of a local body to the Elementary Education Fund under its control is raised by an amount equal to the fee income foregone. Under the Elementary Education Act, 1920, as it stands at present, the expenditure on the feeding and clothing of pupils in elementary schools cannot be legally debited to the Elementary Education Fund.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know when the hon. Minister proposes to amend the Elementary Education Act so that the local bodies may provide books and clothes for pupils of the depressed classes ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I cannot say anything about it. The Act is under consideration, as hon. Members of the House are aware."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" With regard to the expenditure on this head, if the local boards and municipalities are prepared to meet half the cost, will the Government be pleased to pay the other half as grant ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. It is a hypothetical question."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know what the hon. Minister means by saying that he cannot say anything ? Does he mean that the suggestion has not reached the Government, or does he mean to say that he does not care to answer the question ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. That is cross-examining the hon. Minister. The question is not allowable."

*669 *Q*.—Please see page 193 infra.

Local Boards

Nominations to the District Board of Chingleput.

*670 *Q*.—Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the President of the District Board of Chingleput had suggested over a dozen names for choosing the nominated members to the three vacancies on the board ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Messrs. R. Srinivasan, M.L.C., A. Siva Raj, M.L.C., and L. C. Guruswami, M.L.C., were among the gentlemen suggested for nomination ;

(*c*) whether they consulted the Commissioner for Labour or the Collector of the district of Chingleput before they nominated one Mr. Chengam to the membership of the District Board ;

(*d*) from whom they got the suggestion that Mr. Chengam would be a deserving candidate for the District Board membership ;

(*e*) whether a lady nominated to the Chingleput District Board possesses any property within the district of Chingleput or has any connexion with that district in any manner, whether she is a resident of the district and if not, whether the Government will be pleased to state on what considerations the nomination was made ; and

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the three persons nominated to the District Board were so nominated on the suggestion and at the instance of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, M.L.C. ?